

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 57

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to Yosemite National Park.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 26, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, Berryhill. Yosemite National Park: boundary adjustment.

This measure would declare the Legislature's support for adjusting the boundary of the Yosemite National Park to include an approximately 1,575 acre area adjacent to the southwest boundary of the park, further bounded by the Sierra National Forest, and owned by 2 landowners who have expressed their desire to add that area to the park to protect the integrity of the Yosemite National Park and the Sierra National Forest. This measure would urge the United States Congress to act expeditiously in adjusting the boundary of the park.

WHEREAS, The incomparable Yosemite is a federally designated national park spanning eastern portions of the Counties of Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Madera in the central eastern portion of California. The park covers an area of over 760,000 acres and reaches across the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain range; and

WHEREAS, Along with Yosemite's stunning beauty and vast mountainous views and spectacular waterfalls, it is one of the largest and least fragmented habitat regions in the Sierra Nevada, and the park supports a diversity of plants and animals. The park has an elevation range from two to 13,000 feet and contains five major vegetation zones: chaparral/oak woodland, lower mountain forest, upper mountain forest, subalpine zone, and alpine. Of California's 7,000 plant species, about 50 percent occur in the Sierra Nevada and more than 20 percent are within Yosemite. There is suitable habitat for more than 160 rare plants in the park; and

WHEREAS, A federal park bill was passed by both houses of the 38th United States Congress and signed by President Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864, creating the Yosemite Land Grant; while the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were initially ceded to California as a state park, they were returned to the United States Government by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906; and

WHEREAS, Yosemite was named one of America's first national parks in 1890, and remains one of the country's most popular natural attractions with over 3.7 million people visiting Yosemite each year; and

WHEREAS, Rural residential development adjacent to the park creates resource management challenges for the park, the adjacent Sierra National Forest, as well as local government because of the difficulty of providing

county services such as fire protection, water, and road services to such a remote location; and

WHEREAS, There is an approximately 1,575 acre area adjacent to the southwest boundary of Yosemite National Park, further bounded by Sierra National Forest, owned by two landowners who have expressed their desire to add that area to the park; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of this area within the national park has been unanimously supported by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors and in 2012 United States Congressman Jim Costa introduced House Resolution 5709 to adjust the boundary of Yosemite National Park to allow these willing landowners to transfer this property to the park; and

WHEREAS, The proposed boundary line adjustment appropriates no funds, but would allow the future acquisition of these lands using existing programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Yosemite National Park is currently preparing for a 150th anniversary celebration in 2014; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports adjusting the boundary of Yosemite National Park to include this property to protect the integrity of Yosemite National Park and the Sierra National Forest; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the United States Congress to act expeditiously on this boundary adjustment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.